


**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth therein.

In the Action, claims 11-45 were allowed, claim 8 was identified as containing allowable subject matter, and claims 1-7, 9 and 10 were rejected over prior art. In response thereto, claims 1-6 have been cancelled, and the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into independent claim 7.

Paragraph [0002] of the specification has been amended in response to the objection set forth in the Office Action.

The Office Action includes a rejection of claims 1-10 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. However, the statement of rejection only pertains to claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-6. It appears that the inclusion of claims 7-10 in the rejection was an inadvertent error. If, however, the examiner intended to reject claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, further clarification of the basis for such a rejection is requested.



In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 29, 2003

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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